

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

Dan Graber
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Bruce Knutson, 57, Menasha, Wis., was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to ten months in prison, to be followed by a two-year term of supervised release. Judge Crabb also ordered Knutson to pay \$10,000 in restitution to the Ho-Chunk Casino.

On August 30, 2007, after a one-day bench trial in June, Judge Crabb found Knutson guilty of conspiracy to steal money belonging to a gaming casino operated by an Indian tribe. In her written opinion, Judge Crabb found that Knutson and his co-defendant, Darwin Moore, conspired to steal money from Ho-Chunk Casino in Baraboo in its 2005 Tax Times Blues Giveaway which promised prizes totaling \$50,000 to be given out over a five-hour time span on April 14, 2005. Judge Crabb found that Knutson and Moore submitted 9355 counterfeit entry forms in the contest, in contravention of the contest rules.

As detailed in Judge Crabb's written opinion, defendant Moore purchased four reams of bright orange paper to match the color of the real entry forms, and photocopied the forms along with Knutson at their apartment in Menasha. The two

then made repeated trips to Ho-Chunk Casino and made multiple submissions of the counterfeit entry forms into the contest barrel. Judge Crabb also found that Knutson and Moore used two accomplices to help submit additional forms into the contest barrel on the last day of the drawing.

At today's sentencing, Judge Crabb told Knutson that what he did was dumb but effective, because he obtained \$10,000 from the casino. She noted that Knutson had three previous convictions for drug dealing and served prior prison terms. However, she also noted that he suffered a variety of medical conditions that deserved consideration in determining the length of his prison term. On January 4, 2008, Judge Crabb sentenced Knutson's co-defendant, Darwin Moore, to ten months in prison.

The charges against Moore and Knutson were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wausau office of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Gaming Enforcement Bureau. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Graber.

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